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Dkt: 578.0001US01

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 09/772,189
Filing Date: January 29, 2001
Title: BAG WITH ERGONOMICALLY DISPOSED HANDLE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for carrying and delivering pourable product, the apparatus comprising:

a bag having first and second sidewalls;

the bag having a rectangular-like shape, a vertical centerline and a pouring region formed on one side of the centerline; the bag having an end edge and oppositely disposed corners formed along the end edge,

a handle operably connected to the bag, the entire handle being on an opposite side of the vertical centerline from the pouring region, the handle having an oblong shape comprising a major axis parallel to the vertical centerline, and

a reinforcing structure comprising one layer of additional material, the reinforcing structure attached to the bag adjacent to the handle, the reinforcing structure having a vertical length less than the first and second sidewalls, the reinforcing structure having a horizontal length less than the first and second sidewalls,

wherein the handle is adjacent to one corner and the pouring region is adjacent to the oppositely disposed corner,

wherein the first sidewall is attached to the second sidewall at a region adjacent to the handle,

wherein the handle is defined by a hole defined by the first and second sidewalls,

wherein the first and second sidewalls are heat sealed to one another in a heat-sealed region surrounding the handle.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a reinforcing ring attached to the bag and positioned within the hole defined by the first and second sidewalls.

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7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the bag defines an interior volume and pourable product is contained in the interior volume.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pouring region is formed proximal to one of the two oppositely disposed corners formed along the end edge.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the pouring region is marked by a dashed line printed on the bag, the marked line extending across the one of two oppositely disposed corners, the bag defining a pouring hole when opened along the dashed line.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the bag defines a plurality of perforations, the plurality of perforations extending across the one of the two oppositely disposed corners, the bag defining a pouring hole when opened along the perforations.

13-23. (canceled)

24. (new) An apparatus for carrying and delivering pourable product, the apparatus comprising:

a bag comprising first and second sidewalls, the bag comprising a rectangular shape including four corners, a vertical centerline, and a pouring region, the pouring region formed on one side of the centerline;

a handle coupled to the bag, the entire handle disposed on an opposite side of the vertical centerline from the pouring region, the handle positioned catercorner from pouring region, the handle comprising an oblong shape, the handle defined by an aperture in the first and second sidewalls; and

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a reinforcing structure attached to the bag adjacent to the handle, the reinforcing structure having a vertical length less than the first and second sidewalls and a horizontal length less than the first and second sidewalls.

25. (new) An apparatus for carrying and delivering pourable product, the apparatus comprising:

a bag comprising first and second sidewalls; the bag comprising a rectangular shape with four corners and four edges, a vertical centerline and a pouring region formed on one side of the centerline;

a handle coupled to the bag, the entire handle disposed on an opposite side of the vertical centerline from the pouring region, the handle having an oblong shape comprising a major axis parallel to the vertical centerline, the handle adjacent to one corner and the pouring region adjacent to an oppositely disposed corner, the handle defining an aperture passing through the first and second sidewalls, and

a reinforcing structure comprising a layer of a heat-sealable material, the reinforcing structure attached to the bag adjacent to the handle, the reinforcing structure having a vertical length less than the first and second sidewalls and a horizontal length less than the first and second sidewalls, the reinforcing structure extending beyond an edge of the first and second sidewalls.